

Remarks

The Office Action mailed February 17, 2005 has been carefully reviewed and the following remarks have been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-5, 7-11, 13, 14, and 16-24 are now pending in this application. Claims 6, 12, 15, and 25 have been canceled. Claims 1, 7, 13, 14, and 20 are rejected. Claims 2-6, 8-12, 15-19, and 21-25 are objected to.

The rejection of Claims 1, 7, 14, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Smuland (U.S. Pat. No. 3,628,880) is respectfully traversed

With respect to Claim 1, Claim 6 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 6 has been canceled and independent Claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations from Claim 6. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Smuland.

With respect to Claim 7, Claim 12 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 12 has been canceled and independent Claim 7 has been amended to include all of the limitations from Claim 12. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 7 is submitted to be patentable over Smuland.

With respect to Claim 14, Claim 15 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 15 has been canceled and independent Claim 14 has been amended to include all of the limitations from Claim 15. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 14 is submitted to be patentable over Smuland.

With respect to Claim 20, Claim 25 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening

claims. Claim 25 has been canceled and independent Claim 20 has been amended to include all of the limitations from Claim 25. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 20 is submitted to be patentable over Smuland

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 1, 7, 14, and 20 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smulan in view of Lee (U.S. Pat. No. 6,142,734) is respectfully traversed.

Claim 13 depends from Claim 7. Claim 12 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 12 has been canceled and independent Claim 7 has been amended to include all of the limitations from Claim 12. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 7 is submitted to be patentable over Smuland. in view of Lee.

Claim 13 depends from independent Claim 7. When the recitations of Claim 13 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 7, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 13 likewise is patentable over Smuland. in view of Lee.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejection of Claim 13 be withdrawn.

Claims 2-6, 8-12, 15-19, and 21-25 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. With respect to Claims 2-6, Claim 6 has been canceled and independent Claim 1 has been amended to include the recitations of Claim 6. Accordingly, Claim 1 is submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-6 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-5 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 2-5 likewise are in condition for allowance.

With respect to Claims 8-12, Claim 12 has been canceled and independent Claim 7 has been amended to include the recitations of Claim 12. Accordingly, Claim 7 is submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 8-11 depend from independent Claim 7. When the recitations of Claims 8-11 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 7, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 8-11 likewise are in condition for allowance

With respect to Claims 15-19, Claim 15 has been canceled and independent Claim 14 has been amended to include the recitations of Claim 15. Accordingly, Claim 14 is submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 16-19 depend from independent Claim 14. When the recitations of Claims 16-19 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 14, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 16-19 likewise are in condition for allowance.

With respect to Claims 21-25, Claim 25 has been canceled and independent Claim 20 has been amended to include the recitations of Claim 25. Accordingly, Claim 20 is submitted to be in condition for allowance.

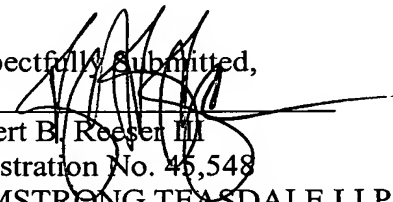
Claims 21-24 depend from independent Claim 20. When the recitations of Claims 21-24 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 20, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 21-24 likewise are in condition for allowance.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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